Bug Quiz Centers On Key Nixon Aide

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Alfred C. Baldwin III, the chief prosecution witness in the Watergate bugging case, was called to Washington this week and questioned about Charles W. Colson, a special counsel to President Nixon, according to sources close to the federal investigation.

Baldwin, a former FBI agent, was recalled from New Haven, Conn., for questioning by the U.S. attorney's office here on Tuesday, the sources said.

Baldwin was questioned about Colson in connection with the Watergate incident, the sources said. The exact questions and Baldwin's answers could not be learned.

Baldwin has told the FBI that he transcribed the wiretapped conversations of Democratic officials for about three weeks. He said he turned prosecution witness when the officials at the Committee for the Re-Election of the President abandoned him after the June 17 arrest of five men in the Watergate bugging.

Baldwin was called as part of the prosecution's preparation for the upcoming Watergate trial scheduled to begin Nov. 15, the sources said.

CHARLES W. COLSON
. . . may be called

In addition, the sources said that Colson, one of the President's most controversial and powerful aides, may be called as a witness in the case.

Horace Webb, deputy director of public information for the Justice Department, termed as "false" a news report yesterday that the federal grand jury, which indicted seven men in the Watergate case Sept. 15, was continuing its investigation.

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Bug Witness Quizzed About Key Nixon Aide

PROBE, From A1

Webb said that the same 23 grand jurors who returned the Watergate indictments are still sitting, but are hearing evidence in other cases that are in no way related to the Watergate.

Other sources reiterated that the grand jury investigation of the Watergate case is complete and that no additional witnesses are expected to be called and no additional indictments will be forthcoming.

Colson, a man known for his toughness in handling important political assignments for the President, recommended that E. Howard Hunt Jr., be hired as a White House consultant in 1971.

Hunt, a former CIA agent, was one of the seven indicted in the Wategate case.

Colson has denied any involvement or knowledge of the Watergate bugging. For weeks after his name was linked to Hunt, Colson refused to answer reporters' questions and did not come forward to personally deny involvement until the Republican National Convention in August.

Federal sources said the prosecutors in the case are attempting to establish the close relationship between Hunt and Colson so it can successfully be argued that Colson is a necessary witness at the Watergate trial.

Hunt's attorneys are expected to oppose any attempt to call Colson as a witness, the sources said.

In June, the White House personnel office said that Hunt actually worked as a consultant to Colson. However, a White House spokesman later denied this and said that Hunt did various work on declassification of the Pentagon papers and on narcotics intelligence.

However, other sources have said that Hunt worked for a special group in the White House called the "plumbers," who were charged with the responsibility of tracking down leaks to the news media.